

### **In the Claims**

This listing of claims replaces all prior listings:

1-6. (Cancelled).

7. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a magnetic head having a pair of magnetic core halves fitted together in abutting relationship with a nonmagnetic gap therebetween and having a slide contact plane for slide contact with a magnetic recording medium, said method comprising the steps of:

forming said magnetic core halves;

bonding said magnetic core halves together in abutting relationship with ~~[[a]]~~ the non-magnetic gap provided at facing end faces of said magnetic core halves;

forming a groove at ~~[[an]]~~ each end portion of the slide contact plane other than at the end faces of the magnetic core halves ~~on the slide contact plane~~; and

forming a nonmagnetic portion by filling ~~the groove-grooves~~ with a non-magnetic glass material so that the end portions of the slide contact plane are comprised of the non-magnetic glass material.

8. (Original) The manufacturing method of a magnetic head according to Claim 8, wherein a surface roughness of a side plane of the groove is 50nm or less.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing magnetic heads, comprising: forming a pair of magnetic core half blocks having track width regulating grooves formed over mating surfaces thereof;

depositing a metal magnetic thin film on the group of track width regulating grooves;

bonding the magnetic core half blocks in abutting relationship with said mating surfaces facing each other while having the metal magnetic thin film ~~[[3]]~~ sandwiched therebetween at end faces of the abutting core half blocks, the thus bonded magnetic core half blocks forming a single block extending in a longitudinal direction and with a target surface, said target surface being finished in a later step to be a slide contact plane for slide contact against a recording medium;

forming a pair of grooves along said target surface, each groove extending longitudinally along the single block and positioned between the thin metal magnetic film and

an outer lateral edge of the single block;

filling the grooves with a non-magnetic glass material; and

cutting individual magnetic heads from said single block to produce a magnetic head with a slide contact plane having end portions comprising said non-magnetic glass material.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein said magnetic core half blocks are made of a ferrite material.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein said target surface is finished to have a surface roughness Ra of 50 nm or less.